Under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, funds are not ear-marked on States|districts basis; reimbursement are made on the first-cum-first serve basis.

Agencies like (i) Maharashtra industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) (ii) Regional Development Corporation (RDC), and (iii) State Industrial and Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SICOM) have been set up by Government of Maharashtra for promoting balanced industrial growth.

Legal status to Lok Adalats

*173. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage and set up more Lok Adalats in the country for cheaper and speedier justice;

(b) if so, what will be the legal status of the Lok Adalats and their judgements; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Lok Adalat is one of the strategic legal aid programmes adopted by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes. They are voluntary agencies, and are overseen and monitored by the respective State Legal Aid and Advice Boards. They are becoming more and more popular with the rural poor as it provides them with speedier and inexpensive justice at their door-steps.

(b) and (c) Lok Adalats are institutions of mutual acceptance by the parties and decisions are based upon consent. Such decisions are accepted by Courts as the outcome of compromise and then become enforceable. A proposal to provide statutory status to the Lok Adalats is under consideration of the Government.

Policy for the Paints Industry

*174. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for the Paints Industry;

(b) if so, what are the details of its licensing policy towards the manufacture of industrial paints, protective coatings and corrosion inhibitors; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for their indigenisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The applications for industrial licences for paints and coatings are considered on merits within the framework of the industrial policy of the Government. Certain items of paints and coatings are reserved for exclusive production in the small scale sector.

In order to promote indigenisation, Government are encouraging foreign collaboration to up-grade the technology particularly with regard to marine protective coatings and corrosion inhibitors where indigenous technology is not enough. Encouragement is also given to indigenous units to instal high speed grinding equipments etc., to match their products with international standards.

HMT watch centres

*175. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many HMT service centres for watches are presently functioning in each State;

(b) how many watches did each centre repair during the last three years, yearwise; and